

Kauai County Council
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii, 96766

July 29, 2013

Honorable Councilmembers:

We are a group of concerned health care providers who support bill 2491. We are concerned with what we believe may be the results of the "farming" practices that are occurring predominately on the west side of our island where we provide health care.

We have no formal quantitative studies but we do have many qualitative examples that point to a higher than normal incidence rate of many ailments and disease processes occurring in our patient populations that may be directly correlated to many of the chemicals and substances being consistently and systematically spread around our community.

Some of our individual and collective concerns:

We have observed a higher than normal occurrence of birth defects and miscarriages than we have seen in other geographic areas where we have practiced.

Abnormally high rates of very severe gout in healthy populations.

Rare types of cancers in a higher than expected rate for our small population of patients.

Almost daily reports of respiratory symptoms in patients that have no history of these respiratory illnesses. Many of these respiratory symptoms are not responding as would be normally expected with the healthy lifestyle changes reported or the pharmacological interventions prescribed.

Hormonal changes affecting our patients including excessive facial and body hair on women and higher levels of infertility in men than would be expected.

Reoccurring nose bleeds in children.

Patients reporting a "metallic taste" in their mouths and recurring dermatitis with no previously known sensitivity to any environmental factors and minimal improvement with treatments.

We have no direct evidence of a specific correlation between these unique variances in the health of some of our patients with the current or past agricultural practices but we do have a high level of suspicion that a strong correlation exists between the two.

While all of us have not seen all or some of these unique patient circumstances and ailments, we all share a deep concern for the health of our patients and the concern of

what may be happening to our community by being exposed to this unique cocktail of experimental and restricted use pesticides on an almost daily basis.

We all agree that we need to understand what chemical toxins are being sprayed, how often they are being sprayed, and how close our patients live to the specific areas being tested with these pesticides. We also agree that increasing and maintaining a mandatory buffer zone away from sensitive populations and areas where people would have long-term exposure even at minor concentration levels would be a significant improvement from current practices. It is unconscionable to allow open air testing of new combinations and untested chemicals in any location that can not guarantee the separation of the testing and any unwilling or unknown exposure potential to the public.

We humbly ask the Kauai County Council to thoroughly consider the proposed bill 2491 and the potential consequences to our community if no improvements are made to the current application of poisons and pesticides on the lands surrounding our community.

Regards,

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)